THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R VELU): (a) and (b) Three surveys for gauge conversion of lines have been included in the budget for the year 2007-08 and are expected to be completed within a period of two years.

(c) Project Uni-gauge was taken up on 01.04.1992 and the policy adopted for taking up gauge conversion to carry out the conversion of lines at least cost yet providing a standard of service not lower than what the Rail Users were getting on the Metre Gauge covering the following areas:

(a) To take up conversion of lines to develop alternative Broad Gauge (BG) routes obviating the need for doubling existing BG lines on these routes.

(b) To establish new BG links between stations connected by other BG lines.

(c)' To establish BG connection to ports, industrial centres and locations having potential for growth.

(d) To take up conversion of lines required on strategic considerations.

(e) To minimize transshipment and to improve wagon turn around by avoiding delays at transshipment points.

Many new line and gauge conversion projects have been taken up on socio-economic considerations for development of backward, hilly, remote and under developed areas.

(d) to (g) Gauge conversion of Ajmer-Phulera-Ringus-Rewari and Bhildi-Samdari have been taken up under National Rail Vikas Yojana. On Ajmer-Phulera-Ringus-Rewari (295 kms.) section, 210 kms. from Phulera-Rewari *via* Ringus is targeted for completion during 2007-08 and Bhildi-Samdari section for 2008-09. Gauge conversion of Jaipur-Phulera 2nd line is not a part of this scheme. However, it is sanctioned as a doubling project.

Passenger halt at Nalco Nagar

†1502. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand for construction of passenger halt at Nalco Nagar of district Angul in Orissa is pending with his Ministry;

(b) whether the National Aluminium Company, a public establishment which is earning maximum profit has given any proposal for bearing the cost of platform to passenger halt to his Ministry; and

(c) if so, the reasons why Railways has objection for construction of such passenger halt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Demand for provision of a passenger halt at Nalco Nagar has been examined and not found financially viable.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

National Aluminium Company did not respond to bear the capital cost though initially committed for the same, despite repeated correspondence from Divisional authorities at Khurda Road.

Laying of Hoshiarpur-Una rail line

† 1503. SURI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government had proposed to lay a railway line from Hoshiarpur in Punjab to Una in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government had also conducted a survey of this railway line;

(c) if so, the amount of money for which a provision was made by the survey team for laying of this railway line; and

(d) the details of the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The survey for new line from Hoshiarpur to Una had been conducted in 1999-2000.

(c) As per survey report, the estimated cost of the project was assessed as Rs. 143.41 crore.

(d) The proposed new line was not taken up due to its un-remunerative nature and constraint of resources.

Looting of passengers on Jan Sadharan Express by GRP

1504. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that GRP Jawans have looted the passengers on Jan Sadharan Express between Aligarh and Tundla Stations recently;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken, so far, to punish the guilty; and

(c) the details of the future plan to prevent such incidents and ensure full security and safety to railway passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. A bonafide passenger named Shri Shamim Milvi of Train No.2388 Down Jan Sadharan Express made a complaint against on duty Government Railway Police (GRP) escort personnel named Const. Ramveer Singh, Const. Jai Veer Singh and one other jawan regarding snatching of money from him while travelling in the above train on 20.03.2007.

(b) A case *vide* Crime NO.9/07 under Section 384/323/504/506 Indian Penal'Code was registered at GRP/Tundla against the above mentioned Government Railway

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.